

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-305
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Black Mountains Bighorn Sheep Translocation

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 3, Unit 15

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- No Local HPC

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[] NO[X]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → HPC Project #:

Project Type: Bighorn Sheep Translocation & Monitoring

Brief Project Summary:

The bighorn sheep population at the southern end of the Black Mountains in Unit 15D has begun to recover, but are fragmented from the remainder of the mountain range by Highway 68. The Department believes Unit 15D may be reaching carrying capacity and would like to transplant 40 bighorn sheep to Unit 15BW at the northern end of the mountain range. Unit 15BW has not shown the same recovery rate and is likely distant enough from Unit 15D spatially to benefit from several years of augmentation. Bighorn sheep monitoring would occur via GPS radio collars placed on 10 of the bighorn sheep translocate from Unit 15D. Disease, cause-specific mortalities, highway crossing and migration monitoring will occur.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep will benefit from the increased number of sheep in the area, to support recovery of the northern portion of the range.

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

January 1, 2012

Project End Date:

December 31, 2012

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: Erin Butler

Projected Completion Date: March 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 60,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 20,000

Total Project Costs:

\$ 80,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Erin Butler

Address:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Kingman Region

E-mail:

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Telephone: 928-692-7700 x

5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd.

Date: 11-10-11

2330	Kingman, AZ, 86409	
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):		
Project has been coordinated with: Game Branch, Research Branch, Region 3 Wildlife Program		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

As part of the continued effort to recover the population of bighorn sheep in the Black Mountains, this activity would facilitate the translocation of additional sheep. Northern portions of the mountain range have not recovered at rates similar to the southern end of the range.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve bighorn sheep herd recovery in Unit 15BW.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Transplant 40 bighorn sheep from Unit 15D to Unit 15BW.

Complete disease testing and body condition exams on bighorn sheep.

GPS radio collar 10 bighorn sheep for monitoring of cause-specific mortalities and movements.

PROJECT LOCATION:

There are multiple Township, Range and Sections in Arizona Game Management Units 15BW and 15D. See attached map of the Black Mountains.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

BLM at capture site and release sites

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The predominant vegetation type is Mohave Desert Scrub. Common plants include creosote bush, bursage, catclaw acacia, paper bag bush, brittlebush, Mormon tea, barrel cactus, hedgehog cactus, teddy bear cholla, Mohave yucca, as well as juniper and turbinella oak at higher elevations.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$40,000: Tag funds will be used to pay helicopter expenses for Department personnel to capture bighorn sheep.

\$20,000: Tag funds will be used purchase 10 GPS radio-collars to affix on bighorn sheep captured and released at the northern end of the Black Mountains.

Cost Share or Matching Funds

\$20,000: Primarily capture personnel time and materials.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Primarily financial cooperation will come from Department funds for equipment, personnel, and vehicle use. Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society representatives may participate and assist in operation. BLM personnel will complete Environment Compliance documents. BLM biologists may participate at the capture and/or release but will cover their expenses.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Region will monitor bighorn sheep released and investigate any mortality according to established protocol. The Region will continue to survey this population for a minimum of 5 years post release.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

N/A

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

This will be submitted as part of the annual performance reporting through the game subprogram. Completion will be the Region's responsibility.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):

N/A

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):

N/A